



The MINUTEMAN

THE MONTHLY RECRUITING NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD • OCT. 2014

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Recruiters welcome new commander • 2
- The Making of an Honor Graduate • 3
- Rednecks & Paychecks • 6
- TXARNG Teams With Dallas Cowboys • 7
- Need to Know • 9





MAJ August T. Murray, TXARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion Commander, accepts the colors during a Change of Command Oct. 1 at the Texas Capitol. Photos by Chris Porter, TXARNG RR BN Marketing

CHANGING *of the* GUARD

Recruiting Bn. welcomes MAJ August Murray as new commander

Members of the Texas Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion joined MG William Smith in welcoming MAJ August T. Murray as the newest Battalion Commander during a ceremony at the Texas Capitol Oct. 1.

As Soldiers, civilians and family members looked on, MAJ Murray accepted the battalion colors from MG Smith, taking over from outgoing commander LTC Jason Hart.

In his last message to the battalion, LTC Hart expressed his excitement for the

unit's future.

"I am excited for Texas, because I know the foundation for the next 20 years is being built today by the absolute finest Recruiting Battalion in the Nation," LTC Hart said. "I look forward to the next chapter in which I will get to work with you."

MAJ Murray previously served as the Recruiting Battalion's XO. LTC Hart will now take over command of 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry in Weslaco.



The Recruiting and Retention Battalion HQ Company's guidon flutters during the ceremony.



Representatives from all four of Texas' recruiting regions attended the ceremony in Austin.



The color guard at the Oct. 1 ceremony.

THE MAKING OF AN HONOR GRADUATE



A Recruit Sustainment Program Soldier performs a Land Navigation test during the Texas Strong Warrior Challenge in Brownwood. Photo by SGT Praxedis Pineda

IN TEXAS, SUCCESS BEGINS BEFORE BASIC TRAINING

For newly recruited members of the Texas Army National Guard, there's an important lesson to be learned on Day 1 of Basic Combat Training.

Fortunately, it's easy to remember: "Hit the ground running."

Since the early days of the Army as an all-volunteer force, countless new recruits have struggled with the physical, mental and cultural shock of military life. For many, the first taste of life in uniform doesn't come until they step off the bus at their training installation. While some will quickly adapt to the rigors of their military careers, others may find themselves at odds with the life they've chosen.

Recruits in the Texas Army National Guard find adjusting to military life a little easier, thanks in part to the National Guard's Recruit Sustainment Program, or RSP.

This month, dozens of Texas RSP Soldiers graduating from Basic Combat Training (BCT) or Advanced Individual Training (AIT) were named either Honor Graduates or Distinguished Honor Graduates. Both titles indicate a mastery of skills taught during the first months of

military life, according to SGM Richard Grantham of Texas' RSP program.

"Honor graduates are the best of the best," SGM Grantham said.

"These recruits are in the top 10 percent of their Basic Combat Training class, meaning they have excelled in subjects like physical fitness, marksmanship and other Soldier skills.

By completing training as Honor Graduates, these Soldiers come to their units more than ready to do their part for the mission."

RECRUIT SUSTAINMENT PROGRAM

Basic Training begins before the end of high school for some National Guard Soldiers. Recruits who are part of the split-option training program attend basic training, the summer before their senior year of high school. After BCT, those Sol-



It's tough, but worth it: RSP Recruits from Team 17 do push-ups on the Corpus Christi beach during training. Photo by Chris Porter

diers return home to complete their senior year as civilians before attending military job-specific advanced training. Following graduation from AIT, these troops are assigned to their Texas Army National Guard Units across the state.

This means for many, there are significant gaps between enlistment, basic training, advanced training, and finally, unit assignment. SGM Grantham said the RSP program is designed to keep those

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Soldiers' military skills fresh during those intervals when they're not wearing the uniform.

"When a Soldier returns home after BCT, it's easy to slip back into civilian life," SGM Grantham said. "The RSP is there to ensure Soldiers stay on top of military skills while living at home prior to unit assignment."

To the Soldiers in RSP, this means monthly drill weekends — a staple for any member of the National Guard.

"It can get pretty intense for them," said SSG Daniel Garza, RSP director for the Texas Army National Guard Recruiting Battalion's Team 17. SSG Garza, along with other South Texas recruiters, led more than 50 RSP Recruits in early-morning physical training on the beaches of Corpus Christi in August.

"It's a full weekend of activities," SSG Garza said. "We have a two-part goal. For those who haven't yet attended BCT, we're introducing them to some of the military skills they'll need when they arrive at Basic. For those who have already graduated BCT, we're reinforcing those skills and keeping them fresh for when they ship off to AIT or to their unit of assignment." The regular RSP drill weekends are held statewide, and each team of recruiters is charged with planning and executing a weekend's worth of training each month, SSG Garza added.

For Team 17's recruits in Corpus Christi, this meant a full day of running an obstacle course in the hot South Texas sun, followed by several hours of classroom instruction on topics such as military ranks and insignia, first aid, land navigation and more.

The following day, SSG Garza and the Team 17 recruiters let the new Soldiers to the beach for a lengthy workout, which included ample push-ups, sit-ups and a long-distance run. The training is designed to challenge the recruits physically and mentally, leaders said.

"We try to keep the RSP drill weekends as close to what the Soldiers will experience in BCT as possible," said LTC Jason Hart, Commander of the Texas Army Na-

tional Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

This means the recruits wear military uniforms and experience military discipline, LTC Hart added.

"It can be a shock to a young recruit who's still in high school," he said. "However, by introducing them to concepts such as military discipline and the chain of command prior to BCT, they're getting a leg-up that a Soldier on the active-duty side won't have when they arrive for training."

BECOMING AN HONOR GRAD

The extra training has already paid off for dozens of Texas RSP graduates. Nearly 40 have been named Honor Graduates or Distinguished Honor Graduates so far in 2014.

In order to be named an Honor Graduate, a soldier must finish in the top 10 percent of their BCT or AIT company, SGM Grantham said, while Distinguished Honor Graduates represent the top one percent of their training class.

For BCT Honor Graduates, this represents finishing with top scores in the Army Physical Fitness Test, along with other soldier skills evaluated during training. Honor Graduates of AIT are recognized for their outstanding performances in testing or certification related to their military occupational specialty, or MOS.

Each Honor Graduate receives a signed letter from a general officer congratulating them on their achievement, while some receive military decorations such as the Army Achievement Medal from their training battalion. Others receive a certificate of achievement and advancement in rank upon graduation.

"We expect the very best out of our Soldiers, and being named an Honor

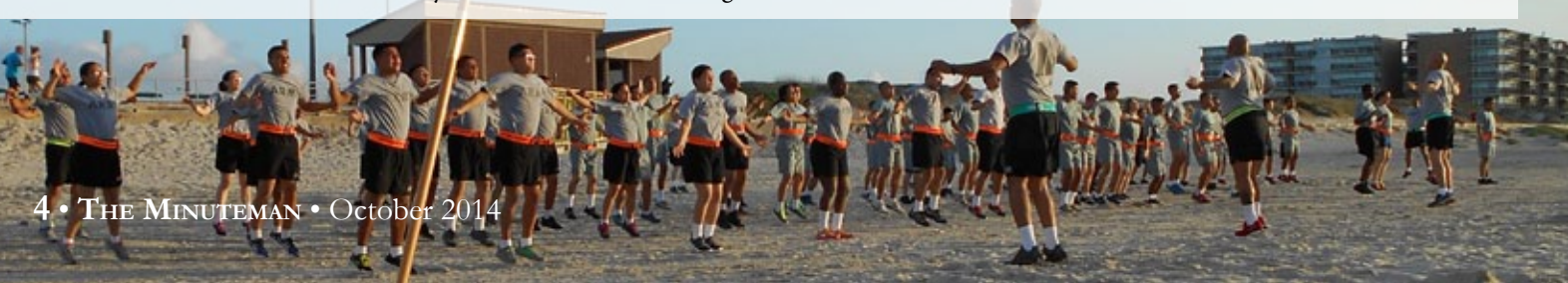


RSP Recruits conduct a road march during the Texas Strong Warrior Challenge in 2014. Photo by SGT Praxedis Pineda

Graduate is a small part of that," said CSM David Castorena, command sergeant major of the TXARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion. "As members of the National Guard, these Soldiers are charged with completing the mission here in Texas or overseas. These Honor Graduates have proven that they have the skills, dedication and motivation to serve their communities no matter where the mission takes them."

While keeping recruits' skills fresh through RSP is one part of developing future Honor Graduates, LTC Hart said it often comes down to something more basic: The people.

"Obviously, we're going to do everything we can to give new recruits the skills and tools they need to excel at Basic Training," he said. "All the training in the world won't turn a recruit into an outstanding Soldier if they don't have the personal drive to succeed, or the willingness to put their unit or their communities first. I believe our recruiters are doing an outstanding job of bringing in people who possess the qualities of selfless service, loyalty and devotion to duty that the National Guard requires. While training and RSP are an important part of making an Honor Graduate, it's the recruit who has to strive to achieve that distinction. We are extremely proud of our Honor Graduates, and I know they'll be an integral part of their units here in the National Guard."



FIGHT NIGHT



Representatives from all four of Texas' recruiting regions attended the ceremony in Austin.



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Recruiters support 3rd Bn., 141st Infantry boxing tournament

"Texas Strong" took on a new meaning Sept. 27, as members of South Texas' 3rd Bn. - 141st Infantry took to the squared circle as part of the unit's "Fight Night" contest.

Boxers from across the Rio Grande Valley participated, with bouts in all weight classes. Members of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion's Team 17, which

operates in South Texas, were on hand to cheer on the fighters, while offering information about serving and reenlisting in the National Guard.

Incoming 3-141 Commander LTC Jason Hart said the event was a good way to build morale and promote fitness, adding he hopes to build upon this year's success in years to come.



GOOD CLEAN FUN



Texas Army National Guard Recruiters got to put their skills to the test during the Rednecks With Paychecks competition in Gainesville. Photo by Lucia Briones.

TXARNG Recruiters take on dirty work at contest

Rednecks with Paychecks kicked off this year with more than 40,000 people in attendance. The event, which annually takes place in Saint Jo, Texas, is filled with campsites, concerts, mud pits, and 20 off-road trails and obstacle courses.

This year was the first that TXARNG partnered with RWP. Region I had a large presence at the registration center, as well as the main event itself. Having two teams located at both sites allowed them to

maintain a positive presence throughout the entire event.

Constant visibility and involvement allowed individuals to become comfortable in starting up conversations with Guard members.

By the end of the event, SFC Anderson had three solid appointments and more than 50 strong leads. This new and productive partnership was established by the consistent efforts of Region I's SFC

Danny Anderson. "Individuals were well receiving of us and seemed to be genuinely grateful for our service and attendance," said SFC Anderson. When asked how working the event felt RRNCO, SGT Crans said, "It was a blast!"

The next major Rednecks with Paychecks event will take place during Spring Break 2015 where crowds are expected to reach up to 80,000.



Recruiters weren't afraid to get a little dirty at the Rednecks With Paychecks mudder competition in Gainesville. The event raised money for North Texas charities. Photo by Lucia Briones

TXARNG teams with Dallas Cowboys

The Texas Army National Guard and Dallas Cowboys are continuing their support of high school football programs across North Texas with the 2014 High School Team of the Week program.

Each week during the 10-week high school football season, TXARNG recruiters working in North Texas high schools will nominate two teams as Team of the Week. Students, faculty, parents and football fans everywhere will select their favorite team through online voting at DallasCowboys.com.

"We are very excited about renewing our partnership with the Dallas Cowboys and partnering with them on the Team of the Week program that honors top high school football teams across the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex," said MAJ August Murray, TXARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion Commander.

Each winning team receives a \$1,000 grant from the Cowboys for their school's football program. Ten teams in all will be selected to receive grants over the course

of the season, and check presentations will be made during an in-school pep rally or during the school's next home game with assistance from Cowboys mascot ROWDY and TXARNG personnel.

"The Dallas Cowboys are extremely proud to partner with the Texas Army National Guard to honor high school football teams in our area," said Charlotte Jones Anderson, Dallas Cowboys Executive Vice President and Chief Brand Officer. "By working together



TXARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion personnel pose with Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones during an event in San Antonio. Photo courtesy Lucia Briones.

to honor these young athletes for a job well done, we can increase interest and pride in the game of football.

For more information about the program, visit DallasCowboys.com.

Mobile recruiting app makes debut on Apple, Android

Residents interested in learning more about serving in the Texas Army National Guard now have an easier way to connect with a recruiter.

The TXARNG mobile app is now available as a free download on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. The app is compatible with all Apple IOS and Android devices.

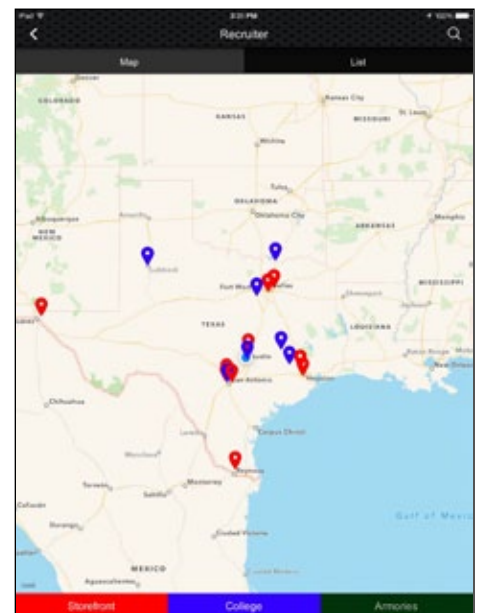
The app includes a fully interactive map which allows users to easily locate recruiters stationed at National Guard armories, college campuses, and National Guard storefront recruiting depots. Users can use the map to locate recruiting stations within their area, then obtain driving directions or contact information for that recruiting location.

Users of the app will also find a listing of recruiting events around the state, and can sign up for notifications alerting them to nearby events when they enter a set radius around that event's location.

Other features include information on National Guard enlistment bonuses and educational benefits, and links to the Texas Military Forces photo page, the Tex-



Users of the Texas Army National Guard's mobile app can locate recruiters using an interactive map, sign up for event notices, and view information on benefits.



as Army National Guard Facebook Page and links allowing users to request more information directly from recruiters.

The Texas Army National Guard

Mobile app is available on iPhone, iPad, or most Android Devices. To download, search for "Texas National Guard" in the Apple Store or Google Play.

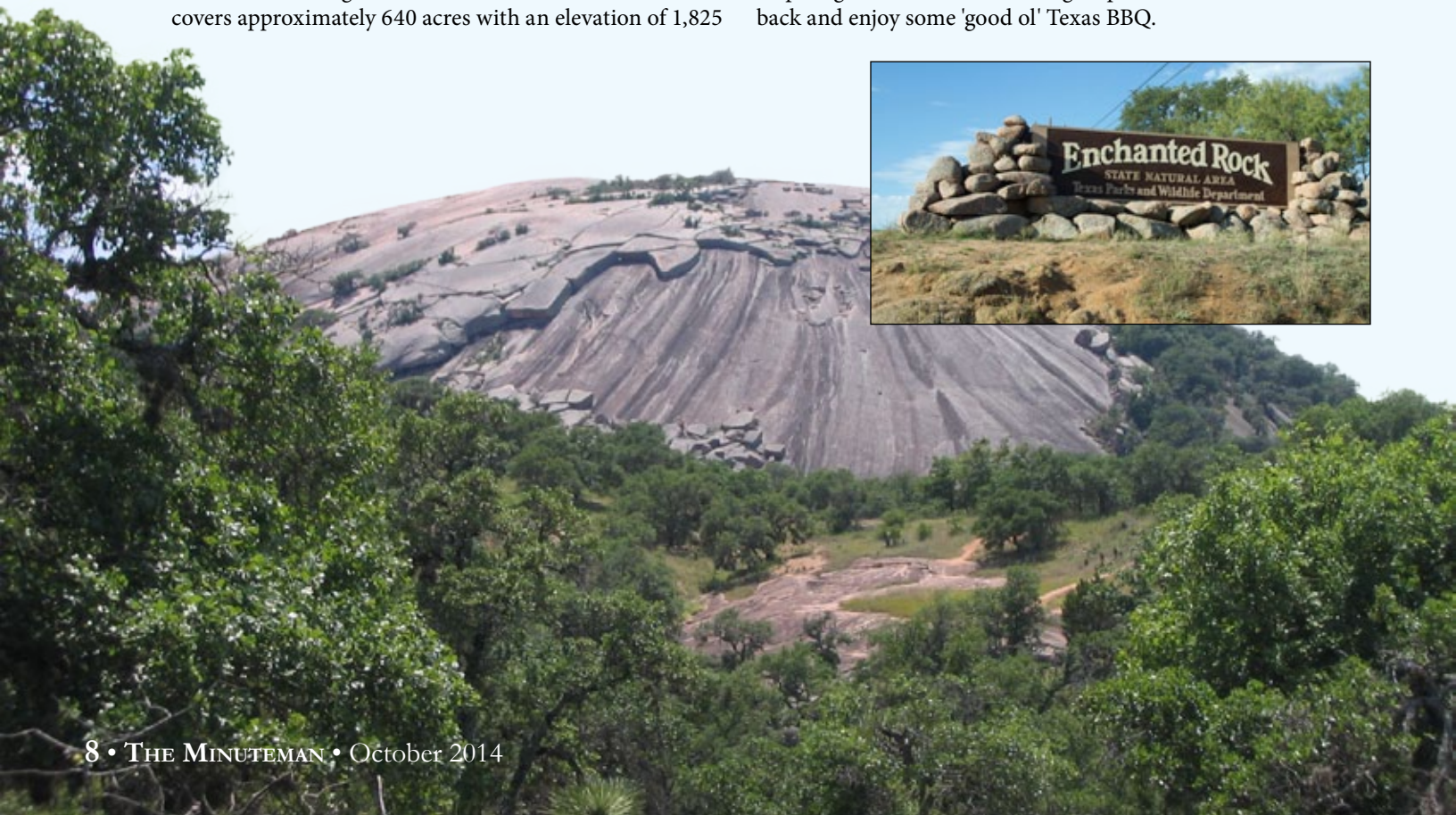


Soldiers from HHC, TXARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion hiked up Enchanted Rock during the company's organizational day Sept. 25. Photo by L.J. Austin

CLIMBING HIGHER

HHC, Recruiting & Retention Command personnel enjoyed an amazing organizational day at Enchanted Rock. Enchanted Rock is an enormous pink granite rock formation and largest of its kind in the United States. It covers approximately 640 acres with an elevation of 1,825

feet above sea level. HHC soldiers and civilians hiked to the top of the massive dome, enjoyed the enchanting views and even explored the majestic cave. After the awe-inspiring but tiresome trek, the group was able to kick back and enjoy some 'good ol' Texas BBQ.



NEED *to* KNOW

Calendar of Events

E-mail christopher.a.porter14.ctr@mail.mil to list your events

Texas Army National Guard Recruiters are scheduled to man booths at the following events at locations across the state. Community members are invited to stop by to visit with recruiters and learn more about serving in the National Guard.

October 2014

Oct. 3 - Tailgating at TCU Football game - Fort Worth

Oct. 4 - Clear Creek JROTC Obstacle Course - Clear Creek

Oct. 4 - Tailgating at UT San Antonio Football game - San Antonio

Oct. 4 - TAMU Kingsville Football ROTC - Kingsville

Oct. 8 - Alamo Heights Howdy Night - San Antonio

Oct. 9 - Fort Bend ISD College Fair - Missouri City

Oct. 9 - 11 Guadalupe Co. Rodeo - Seguin

Oct. 9 - Hispanic Engineering, Science & Technology Expo - Edinburg

Oct. 10 - New Braunfels HS Football - New Braunfels

Oct. 11 - Tailgating at Texas Tech Football game - Lubbock

Oct. 11 - Tailgating at Texas A&M Football game - College Station

Oct. 11 - Tailgating at UT San Antonio game - San Antonio

Oct. 11 - Tailgating at Baylor Football game - Waco

Oct. 12 - Booth at Dynamos Soccer Game - Houston

Oct. 11 - Tailgating at UTEP Football game - El Paso

Oct. 16 - Booth at Dynamos Soccer Game - Houston

Oct. 17 - Tailgating at TCU Football game - Fort Worth

Oct. 17-18 Recruit Sustainment Program Drill (statewide)

Oct. 18 - Tailgating at Texas Tech Football game - Lubbock

Oct. 18 - Leander Fall Festival - Leander

Oct. 18 - Tailgating at TAMU Commerce Football game - Commerce

Oct. 18 - Tailgating at UNT Football game - Denton

Oct. 18 - Mad Max Mud Run - Paris

Oct. 18 - Chisolm Trail Days - Georgetown

Oct. 18 - TAMU Kingsville Football ROTC - Kingsville

November 2014

Nov. 1 - Tailgating at Baylor Football game - Waco

Nov. 1/11 - Tailgating at Texas State University Football - San Marcos

Nov. 1 - TAMU Kingsville Football ROTC - Kingsville

POINTS OF CONTACT

TXARNG Unit Retention/Recruitment POCs

ARNG, DIV HQ, MED, TIOG	(512) 964-1361
136th MEB	(512) 517-6742
36th CAB (Austin)	(512) 422-6958
36th SUS BDE (Temple)	(254) 424-1039
72nd IBCT (Houston)	(512) 782-3847
71st BFSB (San Antonio)	(210) 787-9127
176th ENG BDE (Dallas)	(972) 804-2602
56th IBCT (Fort Worth)	(817) 343-8946

TXARNG Recruiting & Retention Bn.

Recruiting Assets	(512) 782-5165
Education & Incentives	(512) 782-6084
AMEDD Recruiting	(512) 782-5269
Officer Strength Management	(512) 782-5491
OCS Recruiting	(512) 782-5882
Warrant Officer Recruiting	(512) 782-5547
Special Forces Recruiting	(903) 701-5207

Nov. 1-2 - Wings over Houston Airshow - Ellington Field, Houston

Nov. 8 - Tailgating at UNT football game - Denton

Nov. 8 - Georgetown Airfest - Georgetown

Nov. 9-12 - Wurstfest, New Braunfels

Nov. 20 - Food for Families Drive - Dallas

Nov. 22-23 Recruit Sustainment Program Drill - Statewide

Nov. 22 - Tailgating at Baylor football game - Waco

Nov. 29 - Chuy's Christmas Parade - Austin